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Liberal Conservative

HAND-BOOK

ON

ORGANIZATION

AND

ELECTION LAWS

FOR

THE DOMINION ELECTION OF 1896.

Issued for Circulation among the Workers of the Liberal Conservative Party in Nova Scotia.

JOHN A. McKINNON,
SECRETARY.
162 Hollis St., Halifax, N.S.

TO THE

LIBERAL CONSERVATIVE PARTY

OF NOVA SCOTIA.

These hints are compiled for the use of our friends throughout the Province to aid in the systematizing of the canvass.

Preliminary.

1. One or more central Organizations should at once be formed in every Electoral District for managing the Election, and a list of the Officers thereof sent to John A. McKinnon, Secretary, 162 Hollis Street, Halifax, N.S.

2. The Central Organization should at once obtain at least half a dozen copies of the last Dominion Voters' List for each Polling District and Sub-division in the Electoral District and have the same pasted separately in pass-books, leaving every alternate page blank for references and remarks. These lists should be kept for use until the fate of the contest is decided.

3. The Central Organization should see, if District Committees have not already been formed, that they be at once formed in every Polling Sub-division. If the Polling Division from any cause requires the formation of more than one Committee, it should be sub-divided and a certain portion of it assigned to each Committee, the Voters' List for the Division being in like manner apportioned.

4. The District Committees should consider themselves an important and essential part of the General Organization for the Electoral District, and the names of the Chairman and Secretary of each District Committee on its formation should be sent to the Secretary of the Central Organization.

5. Three Lists of Voters pasted in book form as aforesaid, should be sent to the Committee for each

Polling District or Sub-division. The names should be carefully gone over and an endeavor made to classify the voters under these heads:

(*a*) Those certain to vote for Our Candidate (none should be so marked without good reason; there is no more fatal error committed than ASSUMING without KNOWING that an elector is favorable.)

(*b*) Those whom it is useless to canvass and may be put down as AGAINST US. (Here again it is well that doubtful voters should be seen before being put down as against us.)

(*c*) THE DOUBTFUL.

(*d*) THE NON-RESIDENT.— (Marking their last known address and whether friendly to OUR CANDIDATE or not.)

6. Particular care should be used in classifying the List of Voters, that no information with regard thereto be given to friends of the Opposition, and the more effectually to ensure success, it is strongly urged that ALL THE WORK done by the District Committees and workers of Our Party be kept STRICTLY SECRET from our opponents.

It is suggested that only two copies of the Voters' List for each Polling District or Sub-division be classified and marked as aforesaid—one copy to be kept by the Secretary of the District Committee and the other copy when completed to be forwarded as soon as possible by registered letter or by the hands of a trusty friend to the Secretary of the Central Organization.

7. The work of the Central Organization may in many cases be helped by forming its members into sub-committees, having special regard to certain Polling Districts or Sub-divisions.

In sending out persons to organize District Committees, or to co-operate with them, the Central Organization should be particularly careful to select suitable men who know the locality and understand the requirements of the people.

Campaign Literature and Legal Forms.

8. Campaign Literature, Legal Forms, Handbooks on Organization and Instructions with regard to the Election Laws can be obtained by the Central Organizations in each Electoral District on communication with John A. McKinnon, Secretary, 162 Hollis St., Halifax, N.S.

The true history of every matter of interest in the contest will be provided in a readable shape and printed for general distribution.

But when received, *the responsibility for distributing it rests with the Local Committees. For often important Campaign Documents which have cost both time and money to prepare, are allowed to remain in unrolled heaps in Committee rooms, while the electors are anxious for information on the very matters that are treated of in the papers which are intended for distribution.*

Committee Work.

9. The Local Committees should meet from time to time, again scrutinize the list, see that canvassers are performing the duties they have undertaken, and are in every way promoting the success of their candidate.

10. Voters whose support it is desirable to obtain should be seen by one or more of the friends who have most influence with them either through family ties, business interests, friendship, or religious or other associations. It is often the doubtful electors who in close ridings settle the fate of the election, and these voters should at once be called upon and seen.

11. During the canvass it will happen that some considered at first "certain" for or against, may be found, or it may be rumored that they are wavering. Immediate steps should be taken to have these waverers seen to ascertain the cause of their supposed change of feeling, and to endeavor, if they have been hitherto classed as on our side, to recall them to their allegiance.

12. The Local Committees should arrange for occasional Rally Meetings to cheer our friends. The Central Organization can generally arrange to provide speakers when the Candidate cannot attend.

13. At least one day before Nomination Day, the Secretary of each District Committee should deliver to the Central Organization returns made up to the last practicable hour, showing the result of the canvass so far, and if for any reason it is desirable that a Special Agent should be obtained for any particular polling district, application for the same should be sent in to the Central Secretary promptly so that the names may be transferred on the Voters' List on Nomination Day, and the consent of the Agents obtained.

Final Preparations.

14. The real contest takes place, and the work is to be done after NOMINATION and before Polling Day, AND NOT AN HOUR IS TO BE LOST AFTER NOMINATION DAY IN COMMENCING TO DO THIS WORK. WHAT IS THE WORK THEN TO BE SEEN TO?

15. The list of Voters which each Committee is charged with seeing after should once again be carefully gone over, for the purpose of ascertaining whether every voter, and more especially those considered doubtful, has been seen by some person who can speak positively as to what the doubtful man's feelings are; and if he is still undecided, another effort should be made to bring him around to support our Candidate.

16. INSIDE and OUTSIDE AGENTS should be appointed, two for each, four in all for each Candidate; and the written authority of the Candidate should be obtained for the INSIDE Agents.

17. The Secretary of the Central Organization should on Nomination Day furnish for every Polling District or Sub-division one Candidate's Poll Book and two Voters' Lists—one list for the OUTSIDE AGENT and the other for the INSIDE AGENT.

18. On the list of Voters to be handed to the Inside Agent the letter "S" should be marked opposite the names of those who are to be sworn.

19. BUT MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, PROVISION MUST NOW BE MADE FOR BRINGING THE VOTERS TO THE POLLS ON POLLING DAY.

(*a*) A little careful consideration now by the Committee will prevent much confusion, loss of time and unnecessary driving on Polling Day, and may determine the election in our favor.

(*b*) There are many ways in which the arrangements for bringing the voters out may be made, and these are but suggestions. Ascertain who can bring out their teams, and let the man who takes out his team bring with him all the electors who live on the road he has to travel in coming to the poll.

(*c*) Try and so arrange it that every man will be brought to the polls by one of those having a team as he himself comes to the poll, so that it will not be necessary to drive back again, perhaps over the same road that he has already travelled, in order to bring a voter who might just as well have been brought out at first.

(*d*) Every elector who has not a team or is unable to take it out should be assigned to the care of some one who has, in order to make certain that his vote will be polled.

(*e*) And a list of those to be brought by a particular person should be made out and handed to him.

20. The non-resident voter should, if not already seen to, be, without more loss of time, looked after.

21. The canvass should be briskly kept up, and our Candidate's Meetings, or meetings at which our Candidate is to be represented, should be attended by all our friends.

22. If there is any reason to suspect that the other side will resort to bribing, means should be taken to prevent it by patrolling or otherwise guarding districts.

where it is suspected money will be used, so as, if possible, to prevent and at all events to detect the unlawful methods of our opponents.

23. Be on your guard against strangers imported into the constituency at the last hour (generally the day and the night before polling is the time for the Grit Briber to ply his nefarious trade—to disappear by daylight of polling day). The Central Organization relies on the Local Committees for information and protection in this regard.

24. Bring doubtful voters *early* to the polling station and never leave the booth on Election Day without active workers around it to meet electors and instruct them how to mark their ballots.

25. On Election Day, there should *always* be at least one of our Agents *inside* the polling station during the hours of polling; and on the outside of the polling station, one agent (or clerk) should always be in attendance near the entrance to the booth, so as to mark off the Voters' List the names of those who have gone in to vote, and thus enable the party workers to ascertain the absent voters who may require to be sent for.

Changes.

26. *The chief change in the law is that if a man is on the Voters' List he is entitled to vote, no matter whether his qualification is good or bad; it cannot be inquired into, except as to his age and his being a British subject.*

An elector is entitled to vote in *every* Electoral District or Constituency where his name is on the Voters' List, but he cannot vote in more than one polling station of the *same* Electoral District.

27. In Halifax, Pictou and Cape Breton Counties the ballot should be marked opposite to the names of *two* of the Candidates, but only opposite the name of one Candidate in all other Counties of Nova Scotia.

Form of Ballot.

"J"

BALLOT PAPER.

Election for the Electoral District of.....18

DOE John Doe, Township of Nepean, County of Carleton, Yeoman.	
ROE Richard Roe, Town of Prescott, County of Grenville, Merchant.	X
STILES Geoffrey Stiles, 10 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Physician.	
STILES John Stiles, 3 Elgin Street, Ottawa, Barrister at Law.	

The names of the Candidates shall be as in the Nomination Paper. There is to be nomargin on either side of the ballot paper. All portions of the ballot paper are to be coloured dark except the divisions containing the names of the Candidates and the circular spaces opposite, which are to be white as shown in the above form. The elector is supposed to have marked his ballot paper in favor o Richard Roe. The dotted line will be a line of perforations for easily detaching the counterfoil "

INSTRUCTIONS TO AGENTS

OF THE

LIBERAL CONSERVATIVE PARTY IN NOVA SCOTIA FOR THE DOMINION ELECTIONS OF 1896.

Proceedings on Polling Day.

From the time of your appointment you should make yourself familiar with those hints. On Polling Day during your spare moments read carefully in connection with these instructions the Deputy Returning Officer's Book of Instructions. The day before polling, if not previously done, you should communicate with your Committee as to any special instructions they may have to give you.

See that you take with you to the Polling Station your written appointment, a list of the Electors, paper, pencil, candidate's poll book, and these Instructions, and that you be at the Station at least fifteen minutes before nine o'clock a.m. If you are to be an agent at a Polling Station other than that where you are properly entitled to vote, see that you have also with you your certificate from the Returning Officer permitting you to vote at the Station at which you are appointed agent.

NOTE—In this connection watch sharply persons presenting themselves as agents of the opposing candidate and see, if necessary, that such persons are properly certified by the Returning Officer if they offer to vote, and unless you are perfectly satisfied notwithstanding *they may be certified* that they really have a vote at some other Station in the County, put the oath of qualification to them before allowing them to vote.

Deputy Returning Officer's Duties.

1. To open Poll at nine a.m. and to keep it continuously open until five p.m., when it must be closed.

2. To permit to remain in the Polling Station the following persons *only*, namely, the Poll Clerks, the Candidates, their Agents, (or two electors where no agents), and not more than two other electors at a time, according to the number of compartments into which the station is divided.

3. To swear one agent of each candidate to secrecy according to the official oath.

4. Before receiving votes to open ballot box in the presence of the agents and such other electors as may be present, and having ascertained no ballots in it to lock it and call on electors to vote.

5. Upon the request of any agent to require any or all of the oaths hereunder written (as the case may warrant) to be taken by a voter before such voter receives a ballot, and to refuse a ballot to any person who refuses to be sworn or to affirm as required.

6. If not challenged, or if challenged and the required oath be taken to furnish the Elector with a ballot having the Officer's initials on the back of it so placed *by him* that when ballot is folded the initials can be seen without opening it. This ballot must have a counterfoil attached when given voter. This counterfoil, *not the ballot*, must have a number on it corresponding to the number placed opposite the voter's name in the poll book.

7. To mark ballot in the presence of the sworn agents and the voter only, if voter takes the required oath of his own inability to do so.

8. On voters returning from compartment with ballot, having ascertained by examining initials and counterfoil and number only, and *without unfolding it*, that it is the same which he furnished, to detach and destroy counterfoil, and then immediately—in the presence of the voter—place it in the box.

9. To allow a person to vote upon a name upon which some one has previously voted, if such person take the required oath and otherwise establish his identity to the satisfaction of the Deputy Returning Officer, in which case the *ballot itself* must be both initialed and numbered and a note made in the poll book of the person having voted on a second ballot paper on the same name.

10. To furnish a voter with another ballot paper in lieu of one inadvertently spoiled.

11. Immediately at the close of the Poll, in the presence of the Poll Clerk, Candidates, or their Agents, to count the ballots.

Who Entitled to Vote.

1 Those *only* whose names are on the *Official List*, copies of which will have been furnished you long before Polling Day.

NOTE—Each Deputy Returning Officer is furnished with a copy of the Official List of Electors entitled to vote at the Polling Station over which he presides. That list cannot be altered or added to.

In order to be entitled to vote at any particular Station it is *indispensible* that the person applying

(*a*) Should be on the Official List for that Station or

(*b*) That he be duly certified by the Returning Officer as entitled to vote at that Station as an Agent of a Candidate. No more than two Agents for any one Candidate can be certified for any one Station.

Who Cannot Vote.

2. Though a person's name is on the Official List he will not be entitled to vote *if he is*

(*a*) A Judge of the Supreme or County Court.

(*b*) A Revising Officer.

(*c*) The Returning Officer. (This does not include a Deputy Returning Officer.)

(*d*) The Election Clerk. (This does not include a Poll Clerk.)

(*e*) A person (other than a Deputy Returning Officer, Poll Clerk or Constable) who has been employed at the Election or in reference thereto, in forwarding the same, and for which service he has been or expects to be paid or remunerated.

Again.

3. Though a person's name is on the List as an Elector *he will not be entitled to vote* if he refuses to take the Oath of Qualification, which is as follows:—

FORM S.

FORM OF OATH OF QUALIFICATION OF A PERSON WHOSE NAME IS REGISTERED AS A VOTER ON THE LIST OF VOTERS.

I, (A.B.), solemnly swear (*or if he is one of the persons permitted by law to affirm in civil cases*, solemnly affirm)—

1. That I am the person named, or purporting to be named, by the name of..... (*and if there are more persons than one of the same name on the said list, inserting also his addition or occupation*) on the List of Voters for Polling District No. .....in the Electoral District (*or* Municipality) of .....

2. That I am a British subject (by birth *or* naturalization, *as the case may be*), and that I am of the full age of twenty-one years.

3. That I have not voted before at this election, either at this or at any other polling place.

4. That I have not received anything, nor has anything been promised me, directly or indirectly, either to induce me to vote at this election or for loss of time, travelling expenses, hire of team or for any other service connected therewith.

5. That I have not directly or indirectly, paid or promised anything to any person either to induce him to vote or refrain from voting at this election. So elp me God.

NOTE—Agents are entitled to require the foregoing oath to be put to any person presenting himself claiming the right to vote. And they should require the same to be put immediately the name of the person claiming to vote is declared found on the list under the following circumstances :—

(*a*) If they have been so instructed by the Committee with regard to such person.

(*b*) If they have reason to suspect, either

(1) That the person presenting himself is personating some Elector, or
(2) That such person is not of age, or
(3) That such person is not a British subject, or
(4) That such person has been bribed or that he has been guilty of bribery himself, or
(5) That travelling expenses have been paid or promised, or
(6) That such person's team has been hired, or
(7) That he has voted before at this Election, or
(8) That he has been engaged to perform or has performed services for our Opponents in connection with the Election, for which he has been paid or for which he expects to be paid or rewarded.

Oaths.

Remember

1. That only three oaths can be required to be taken by any person presenting himself to vote at this Election. They are

(1) The one above quoted.

(2) The oath required of a voter unable to *mark his ballot*, which is as follows :—

"I solemnly swear (or if he is one of the persons entitled by law to affirm in civil cases, solemnly affirm) that I am unable to read and to understand the ballot papers so as to mark the same, (or) that I am incapacitated by physical cause (as the case may be) from voting without the assistance of the Deputy Returning Officer."

(3) The Oath of Identity by a voter requesting a ballot paper after another has voted in his name, which is as follows :—

FORM U.

OATH OF IDENTITY BY VOTER RECEIVING A BALLOT PAPER AFTER ANOTHER HAS VOTED IN HIS NAME.

I solemnly swear (*or if he is one of the persons permitted by law to affirm in civil cases*, solemnly affirm) that I am A.B. of..... (*as on the list of voters*), whose name is entered on the list of voters, (*or the exclusion of whose name from the list of voters is the subject of an undecided appeal under the provisions of "The Electoral Franchise Act," as the case may be*) now shown me. So help me God. 37 V., c. 9, sch. Form P.

The law requiring any other oaths to be taken as a condition of voting has been repealed. Remember, too, that any person (other than one claiming to vote on a name previously voted on) having given a name found on the list and having taken the required oaths, is *absolutely* entitled to receive a ballot and to *vote*.

Remember, too, that no Officer, Clerk, Agent or other person shall *interfere* with a voter when marking his ballot.

Counting the Ballots.

The Agents must remain in the Polling Booth and see that the ballots are properly counted.

The ballots which are not to be counted are :—

1. Those which have not the Deputy Returning Officer's initials on them placed there by himself.

2. Those on which votes are given for more than one candidate, except in Halifax, Pictou and Cape Breton Counties, where every elector is entitled to vote for two candidates.

3. Those on which the cross X is not marked in lead pencil *on and within the white circular space* of the ballot paper immediately opposite the name of one of the candidates. Of course in Halifax, Pictou and

Cape Breton Counties the ballot may be so marked opposite the names of two of the candidates.

4. On which anything is written or marked by which the voter could be identified. In other words if the ballot contains any mark whatever other than the lead pencil cross X *within the white circular space* as above mentioned, and the Deputy Returning Officer's initials on the back, *object to it. Object to it also,* if the cross X projects over into the black space af the ballot surrounding the white circular space. *The cross X must be actually on and within the white circular space.*

NOTE—The Deputy Returning Officer is bound to note and decide every objection to a ballot paper made by an agent. The objection must be numbered by him and he must place a corresponding number on the back of the ballot objected to and initial it. Take your objections firmly and see that the officer does his duty and make yourself a written memorandum at the time of your objection, its number, and of the decision made.

Important.

Read carefully the instructions of Returning Officers and you will see the duties devolving on the Deputy Returning Officer *as and after he counts the ballots,* especially as to sealing and locking the ballot box, and remember that under the law, agents are entitled to write their names across the flap of the envelopes or parcels in which the various ballots are placed after the count, and that they are also entitled to place their seals on the box after it is locked in such manner as to prevent the introduction of additional ballots. *Better do this.*

Lastly.

Before leaving the booth the Agent should obtain and safely keep, a written statement of the result of the Poll, duly signed by the Deputy Returning Officer, the Poll Clerk, and the Agents present who are willing to do so.